## 3. ADDRESS READ BY MR. BOSWORTH SMITH ON BEHALF OF THE KOLAR GOLD FIELD MINING BOARD, 1ST OCTOBER 1906.

To

V. P. MADHAVA RAO, ESQ., C.I.E.,

*Dewan of Mysore.*

SIR,

I am desired by the Kolar Gold Field Mining Board, on whose behalf I now have the honor to address you, to convey to you their most sincere congratulations on your appointment as Dewan to this the Mysore State. In doing so, we must express our gratification that this high honor has fallen upon such a distinguished and enlightened gentleman, and especially so, as from our associations in the past we know that in you, Sir, we have a friend who will give sympathetic consideration to the requirements of the industry we represent, an industry that has yielded so much revenue to the State, and which has given employment to so many thousands of its inhabitants.

As the representative of the Board I have been instructed to bring the following subjects to the notice of your Government.

*Police*.—We are glad to acknowledge the excellent work performed by the Police Force on the Field. Under this subject I am desired to bring to your notice that the new grant of Rs. 500 lately passed by the Government for the conservancy of Police lines, stations and offices is inadequate for the purpose. The District Superintendent of Police states that the necessary sanitary staff would involve a minimum outlay of Rs. 53 per month, or Rs. 636 per annum, which, however, does not include the cost of materials, disinfectants, etc. The grant of Rs. 500 is consequently insufficient.

*Police Act*.—In their representations to the Government at the Dasara in 1903 the Board brough forward the very urgent necessity for the introduction of a Police Act. In 1904 our representative at the Dasara of that year made the following remark "The necessity for the introduction of the Regulation for the Mysore Province was brought forward at the last Dasara Assembly and we note with great satisfaction that the question has recently been receiving the attention of a Special Committee appointed by His Highness' Government" That was in October 1904, and as yet we have no Police Act. The Board wish to draw the attention of Government to the very urgent necessity for the introduction of this Act, the want of which very materially hampers the hands of the Police on the Field.

*Roads*.—This subject has been brought forward at every Dasara at which the Mining Board has been represented. In thanking Government for the repairs that have been done to the roads on the Field, the Board wish to point out that the state of the roads is still far from satisfactory. Seeing the large amount of traffic that these roads carry, the Board suggest that if more continued attention were paid to small repairs instead of confining the work to metalling when the road has been worn out as is now done, the general state of the roads would be maintained in better condition with probably no enhanced cost to Government.

*Plague*.—We desire to acknowledge the prompt help and hearty co-operation of the Government Medical Officers and Sanitary staff with our own Medical establishment in all efforts to keep plague and other infectious diseases off the Mines, and note with satisfaction that the last epidemic of Plague has been the lightest of the four. The total number of cases reported in the whole of the Sanitary Board area was only 185, of which 35 occurred on the Mining Camps.

*Government Hospital*.—Another year has passed and despite the Board's strong expression of disappointment made at the last Dasara the new Hospital buildings remain unfitted and unoccupied. The Board would also point out in this respect that no provision has been made for poor Europeans and Eurasians, not entitled to the benefits of the Companies' Hospital, and earnestly recommend that accommodation be added for the use of those people.

*Maternity Hospital*.—The necessity for such a Hospital has been repeatedly urged by the Board, and once more it is desired to draw the attention of Government to the urgency of this requirement. It is well known to the Medical Officers of the Government that a number of lives are lost yearly for want of such an institution.

*Cauvery Power Scheme*.—During the early part of this year the water in the Cauvery decreased to such an extent as to greatly detract from the utility and value of the Cauvery Power Scheme for a period extending from the end of February to the latter part of June. The Board respectfully request the Government to consider the practicability of constructing a large storage reservoir to contain sufficient water to provide against the shortages of power that occur during dry seasons.

*Kolar Gold Field-Dodbele Metre Gauge Railway*.—The Southern Mahratta Railway is very anxious to make a short extension of their system from Dodbele to the Field, thus linking the Mines with the port of Mormugoa. This in the opinion of the Board would be a great benefit to the Mines in many ways and they respectfully request the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore to do everything in their power to promote the construction of this Railway Extension.

*Mining Regulation*.—We tender our most hearty thanks for the Mysore Mines Regulation, 1906, recently passed. Although the Government has not been able to comply with all our recommendations; we greatly appreciate the very considerable advance that the new Act bears to the old one, bringing the legislation of the Mysore Mines much more into line with that found necessary on gold fields in other parts of the world.

*Confiscation of stolen gold*.—The Board wish to urge Government to recognize their right to receive all gold stolen from the Kolar Field, which has been recovered and confiscated to Government. That such gold is the property of one or more of the Mines on the Field is undoubted, but because it cannot be recognized by any one of the Mines as its own particular property, such gold is confiscated,

even though the combined owners are anxious that it should become the common property of the Mines to be used in part payment of the heavy legal expenses they have to incur in carrying out the prosecution of the thieves. Since the beginning of the year 1902 the expenses referred to have been as follows:—

| | | | | Rs. | a. | p. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1902 | ... | ... | ... | | | |
| 1903 | ... | ... | ... | 5,807 | 0 | 0 |
| 1904 | ... | ... | ... | 11,305 | 9 | 2 |
| 1905 | ... | ... | ... | 22,493 | 4 | 11 |
| 1906 (paid to date) | ... | ... | ... | 8,293 | 2 | 0 |
| ,, due, say | ... | ... | 4,128 10 0 | | | |
| | | | 2,000 0 0 | | | |
| | | | | 6,128 | 10 | 0 |
| | | | Total ... | 54,027 | 10 | 1 |

Thus in five years over half a lakh of rupees has been spent by the Board in conducting prosecutions. Up to the present the attitude of Government with regard to the stolen gold can hardly be said to be helpful to the Mines. I may instance a case, the details of which are too long to give here, in which the Board has been put to an expense of Rs. 2,000 to prevent the confiscation to Government of a piece of sponge gold worth about Rs. 60, notwithstanding that the gold was proved to the satisfaction of the Special Magistrate on the Field to belong to a certain Mine. This confiscation was made merely on the ground that it was possible for the piece of gold to have belonged to one of the other Mines none of whom wished to claim it. To you, Sir, the Board appeal asking earnestly and most respectfully that the Government will waive their claim to gold stolen from the Kolar Field, or, if the confiscation is a legal necessity, that the Government will graciously be pleased to return the gold to the Mines through the Mining Board.

In conclusion I beg to tender the best thanks of the Mining Board to you, Sir, and to the Government of His Highness the Maharaja for this opportunity of bringing the foregoing to the notice of Government, also for the kind consideration that has always been accorded to our numerous representations in the past, and which will, we are sure, not be withheld from those now brought forward.

## THE DEWAN'S REPLY TO THE ABOVE.

MR. BOSWORTH SMITH,

I sincerely thank you, and the Kolar Gold Fields Mining Board through you, for the appreciative terms in which you have referred to me. You may rest assured that the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore are fully alive to the importance of the industry you represent and will be prepared to accord due consideration to its reasonable requirements.

Turning now to the matters to which you have specially invited my attention, I may say that the Draft Police Regulation, as revised by the Special Committee appointed for the purpose, is before Government, but that before its consideration is taken up the Government propose to publish it in the Gazette for eliciting the views of the general public and of persons specially interested in the subject. This will be done very soon, and then the Draft Regulation taken up in due course.

I note the testimony you bear to the work performed by the Kolar Gold Field Police Force. The Deputy Commissioner will be instructed to make suitable arrangements for the satisfactory conservancy of the Police buildings.

As regards roads, instructions have been issued for the needful repairs being effected during this wet season, and the Chief Engineer assures me that the roads will be maintained in as good condition as funds permit

The new Hospital will be opened as soon as accommodation is provided for the medical staff. The necessary works are under progress and will soon be completed. After this is done, the question of accommodation for European and Eurasian in-patients will be taken up.

The Government have now before them proposals for opening a maternity on the Gold Fields, and early orders will be passed on the subject.

Reference has already been made in my speech to a project under consideration for the construction of a large reservoir on the Cauvery River for the storage of water. But the project, however, presents problems of considerable difficulty from the engineering and other points of view. In the meantime the Electrical Department will do, as it has done, whatever is possible to minimize the inconvenience due to shortage of supply.

The question of the extension of the Southern Mahratta Railway from Dodbelé to the Gold Field is under correspondence.

The subject of the return of confiscated gold to the Mining Board is engaging attention and an early decision will be arrived at after a careful consideration of the important legal and other principles involved in the question.

I note with pleasure the testimony the Board bear to the good work done by the Government Medical and Sanitary officers in combating plague and other infectious diseases.